

**PACIFIC GROVE
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



California
Distinguished School
2001-2004, 2009-2012

The WAVE

JANUARY 2015



Principal's Message

Buck Roggeman
Principal

Sean Roach
Assistant Principal

Janie Lawrence
Counselor

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New Year, New Test, New Results

By Buck Roggeman
Principal

As we usher in 2015, the California Department of Education is preparing to unveil a bold, new era in standardized testing for our students.

Like all changes, there will be some growing pains that our state will endure as we forge ahead to an outcome that will ultimately better prepare our students for the college and careers.

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CaASPP) will feature full implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test.

Last Spring, our school participated in a field test of SBAC's test along with 20 other states and the United States Virgin Islands.

The test is much more rigorous and requires a higher level of complex problem solving than ever before. Gone are the days of simple multiple choice questions with a single correct answer.

Now students face multiple choice questions with a possibility of multiple correct answers – if they do not correctly identify each correct answer, the question is marked incorrect.

Additionally, students must take performance tasks in Math and English Language Arts.

The Math performance tasks place the students in a real world situation where they need to use multiple mathematical skills and complex reasoning to accurately solve a combination of related questions.

In English Language Arts, students are given multiple sources about a particular subject and use the information available to write several short answer responses and one full essay.

The testing is all on computer and will take approximately five two-hour sessions and will be completed in a week.

Here is a link to a practice test. Log in as a guest, and you will be able to see what is being

asked of our students on this year's test:
<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

When the results are shared with students and parents this year, there will be four categories for student scores: Level 1 (novice), Level 2 (developing), Level 3 (proficient), Level 4 (advanced).

A score of proficient or higher means that students have mastered grade level standards.

This is where there will be a sharp discrepancy from years past.

In the SBAC English Language Arts field test, for example, 41 percent of seventh grade students scored proficient (30%) or advanced (11%). In math, only 33 percent scored proficient (19%) or advanced (14%).

These numbers are in stark contrast to the results our community is used to seeing on the California Standards Test (CST) of years past.

In Spring 2013, the last year the CST was given, PGMS had 80 percent of its seventh grade students score advanced (47%) or proficient (33%) on the English Language Arts test. In math, 68 percent of our students scored advanced (30%) or proficient (38%).

What all this means is that there is high probability that the number of our students scoring advanced or proficient on this year's test will be much, much lower than in years past.

This is because the test is new, more rigorous, and our schools are adjusting to new learning standards for every grade level. It is only reasonable to expect a dip in our initial test results, and we will use this data to establish a baseline to measure our future growth.

As our students become more accustomed to examining questions in more depth and using text based evidence to support arguments in their writing, our scores will improve over time.

Our hope is that our PGMS community will maintain its focus on our long term goals of preparing our students for college and careers. The new standards, and even the new test that goes along with it, will help us do exactly that.

CHILL Update
Courage Honor Integrity
Lasting Loyalty

Sean Roach, Assistant Principal

Our December CHILL assembly highlighted the dedication and talent of so many of our students at PGMS. We listened to our Chorus, Band, Orchestra, and Jazz ensembles perform their Winter Concert on Wed., December 17. From our beginning musicians to our advanced students, each student shined on stage. Kudos to Ms. Priest and Ms. Johnson for their hard work and dedication in preparing our students for both the school event as well as the night time Winter Concert, you both are to be commended. Staff and students were very impressed with how our students performed and improved.

We are about to conclude our 12 Days of Kindness! Students were encouraged to participate in random acts of kindness. Here is the our list:

The 12 Days of Kindness

First Day of Kindness

Be generous with your compliments (compliments make people feel good about themselves; then they can pay it forward)

Second Day of Kindness

Thank your Parents (whether it's for something like making dinner or just because, your parents deserve your thanks!)

Third Day of Kindness

Send a note of appreciation to a member of PGMS (Teacher, staff, Librarian or anyone else that works hard to make PGMS a great place)

Fourth Day of Kindness

Donate to someone less fortunate (whether it's bringing cans for the PGMS food drive or donating items to local charities, you can help someone less fortunate than you and feel really good about doing it!)

Fifth Day of Kindness

Be a positive role model
Be aware of your actions, set a good example for others to follow!

Sixth Day of Kindness

Encourage someone (whether it's in the classroom, on the field or in the community, everyone needs someone cheering

them on!)

Seventh Day of Kindness

Smile at 10 strangers (a random smile can change someone's day from bad to good)

Eighth Day of Kindness

Help keep our school clean (if you see a random piece of trash, take a second to throw it away, keep our school beautiful!)

Ninth Day of Kindness

Eat Lunch with someone new (no one should eat by themselves; a stranger is a potential friend!)

Tenth Day of Kindness

Be a good listener (whether it's listening to your friend telling a sad story, or your teacher teaching you about Math, both need your full attention!)

Eleventh Day of Kindness

Help someone (if someone dropped their books, if someone has fallen down, if someone needs your advice, lend them a helping hand, someone will do it for you someday!)

Twelfth Day of Kindness

Hold a door open for someone (watch the look on their face, it's priceless!)

Our next CHILL event will be on January 21, 2015 and will be a celebration of the 100th day of school. Our Leadership class, under the guidance of Mr. Roach and Ms. Costales will be planning this celebration, with the theme, *For You I Will*. This assembly will also recognize the amazing clubs we have on campus, many of which serve the school and the community as a whole, and teach our PGMS students to be Global Citizens!

We would like to wish you and yours a wonderful Winter Break!



FIRST SEMESTER ENDS
DECEMBER 19, 2014
SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS
JANUARY 6, 2015

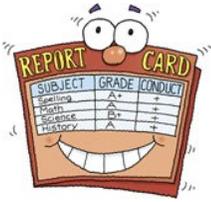
We have reached the midpoint of the 2014-2015 school year. Report cards will show grades from the first semester. These grades are particularly important since units for promotion to the next grade are determined by these grades. Conduct grades will be used to determine eligibility for school dances and other activities. Please call PGMS Counselor, Ms. Lawrence if you have questions or concerns about your child's report card. There are two requirements for 8th grade promotion: 1) earning the required units and 2) completing the required community service hours, 16 hours earned by the end of 8th grade. General information can also be found in the Student/Parent Handbook that you received at the beginning of the year.

Eighth grade students who do not earn the required units each semester will not be promoted to high school. Students must have completed a total of 16 community service hours to earn promotion.

Sixth and seventh grade students will not promote to the next grade level until the academic units are earned. Summer school may be available for students to make up units; however, some students may not earn the necessary number of units for promotion to the next grade level during summer school. **Also as a reminder, 7th and 8th grade students who are not eligible for promotion until they attend summer school will not be eligible to attend the promotion dance on May 28. Eighth grade students in this situation will not be included in the promotion ceremony, dance, or 8th grade End-of-Year trip.** At the beginning of the second semester, many 7th and 8th grade students will take a new elective class. Students were pre-scheduled for their electives for first and second semester based on their choices from last spring. Generally speaking, students may not repeat an elective class. If an elective is closed based on numbers, or if a student is slotted to repeat an elective, we may assign an elective. Students in Instrumental or Vocal Music, Foods and Leadership will continue with that class. If you have any questions about this process, please call Ms. Lawrence at 646-6568, ext. 304.

From the Student Handbook...

Grading, Report Cards & Progress Reports



A, B, C, D and F grades are issued each marking period. A=Advanced/Outstanding, B=Proficient, C=Basic, D=Below Basic, F=Far Below Basic or Failing. We want all students to strive for grades of A or B. Grades below B do not meet our goals for student achievement.

Citizenship grades – O for outstanding, S for satisfactory, N for needs improvement, and U for unsatisfactory – are also given for each reporting period. Each semester is graded independently and is recorded on the students' permanent records. Academic and Citizenship grades are used when determining eligibility for student council, sports, and overnight field trips. Midway through each semester we issue quarterly **report cards**.

Report cards are mailed home the week following the end of each quarter. Midway through each quarter, about 5 weeks in, we issue **progress reports** for students who may be in danger of receiving a D, F, C-, or who have an N or U citizenship grade. Parents should contact the teacher to see how they can help improve these less-than-proficient areas of achievement. Parents can access current grades at any time by checking PowerSchool.

Physical Education

All students are expected to dress out for and participate in PE every day. Students must be in the locker rooms when the tardy bell rings. Additionally, all students are expected to remain in the presence of the teachers or supervisors after dressing until released by their teachers.

PE Requirements: If student does not have proper footwear, they will not be allowed to participate and will receive a zero for the day. Students can wear a PGMS sweatshirt or other sweatshirt on top of their PE uniform on cold days. Students who do not dress appropriately for PE will receive a lower grade and/or disciplinary consequences.

PE Behavior: Student behavior in PE is expected to be the same as in any other class. Pushing, grabbing, teasing, poking, tripping, and use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated. These behaviors will lead to referrals and disciplinary consequences. Gum is not allowed in PE nor on campus.

Excuses from PE participation: If there is any change in your student's health which may affect his or her ability to take PE, or if he or she is placed on regular medication (ed. Code 12020), it is the parent's responsibility to notify the school. Make-ups for excused absences and medical excuses will be determined by the teacher.

Parents' notes are good for **one to three days**, depending on the issue. The note must state the number of days excused, or the instructor will assume it is only for one day. The note should also be specific about what activities the student is prohibited to perform. A note must be presented the day the student is to be excused from PE activities. Students who are excused from PE activities for medical reasons are still expected to be on time to roll call and to be dressed out.

A **medical doctor's note** is required for excuses lasting **longer than three days**. The note should include all of the above information. The doctor should also recommend the type of activity, if any, that the student can perform while excused from PE and the length of time for that recommendation. Students who are excused from PE activities for medical reasons are still expected to be on time for roll call and to be dressed out, unless otherwise determined by the teacher, counselor, or administrator.



Did You Forget???

In an effort to help your child become an independent Pacific Grove Middle School student, we have some suggestions. Each morning check the following with your student: Do they have their lunch or lunch money, all homework and SIGNED papers in their backpack, P.E. clothes, AND does everyone know their after school plans? Every student will forget something sometime, but each year there are some students who forget repeatedly.

Parents call in daily about these forgotten items and want notes sent to their student during class time. These notes interrupt valuable classroom instruction time. We are asked to send about 20 notes a day that can be avoided with a little planning. Over the course of the year this is about 3600 interruptions.

Instead, we are asking parents to drop off the item in the school office and we will hold it until the student comes for it. Talk with your student about checking in the office when they realize they have forgotten something. Students may check in between classes, at break or during lunch. If they need to call home they can use classroom telephones. **Together** we can help our students become responsible and reduce the large number of instructional interruptions.

SAFETY CONCERN

Parents, please be reminded that we do not have supervision on campus prior to 8:00 a.m. Students should not arrive at school earlier than this time unless they are enrolled in a first period class or are going to the library, which opens at 8:00 am.

Students who arrive early and just "hang out" run the risk of getting into trouble or becoming injured through playing some type of game, which has happened in the past. Your cooperation with keeping your students off campus until 8:00 a.m. is appreciated.

HONORS NIGHT GUIDELINES

Even though the end of the year seems a long way off, we want to make sure everyone is clear about the guidelines for recognition on Honors Night.

Students will be recognized in a ceremony on Tues., May 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the PGMS Auditorium. This program will recognize students that have maintained at least a 3.5 GPA **for each of the first three grade marking periods of the school year.** This 3.5 GPA will be based on the letter grades received for each course. Pluses and minuses will not be considered. Speakers for Honors Night will be selected by staff from among those students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA. Various scholarships will be awarded that evening. This is truly a special evening and we are looking forward to recognizing the many fine, hard-working students at our school.

Honor Society Social

The Honor Society Social will be held on **Tues., Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m.**, in the **Gym**. Students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Eligible students will receive an invitation during their Home-room (2nd period). It is your student's responsibility to pass on the information or you can ask your student if they received an invitation. Any questions, please contact the office 831-646-6568.

Conduct Club: PGMS recognizes students who consistently display outstanding citizenship in the classroom. To be eligible to attend the quarterly Conduct Club Lunch, a student must receive straight O's (Outstanding) on his/her report card during the previous quarter. Students eligible to attend the Conduct Club Lunch activity will receive an invitation a few days prior to the event. Students are responsible for obtaining missed classroom assignments during the event.

The Conduct Club Luncheon is on Wed. Jan. 28. Eligible students will receive a permission slip. The permission slip is due into the office by Mon. Jan. 26, at 3:00 pm.

NO LATE PERMISSION SLIPS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!

PGHS Registration Coming for our 8th Graders in January 2014

Parents, look for the PGHS Course Catalogue, with attached informational letter, coming home with your 8th grade student on **Fri. Jan. 9, 2015.**

The following **Wed. Jan. 14, 2015,** parents will be invited to attend a parent meeting at **PGHS Library, 6:30 p.m.,** where HS Counselor Pat Rolander will give a presentation to parents of incoming 8th graders to PGHS for the next school year, 2015-2016. You will receive a letter in the **mail from the PGHS Guidance Office** with information about this parent meeting and other 8th grade registration information.

Ms. Rolander will then meet with your students at the middle school on **Jan. 15 and 16** to help explain the course catalogue and course selections for incoming Freshmen. Ms. Rolander will discuss class selection options and explain how students can register on-line for their classes and answer all their questions.

Please try to attend the informational parent meeting on **Wed. Jan. 14.**

GO BREAKERS!!



7th Grade Entry Immunization Requirement

The California State law requires all students entering 7th grade to show proof of the whooping cough booster shot (Tdap). If your student has had the immunization, please bring their updated immunization record to the school office. If he or she has not had the immunization, please call your health care provider to get the vaccination. Students who have not received this booster shot will be excluded from school until they do. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 646-6568.

Here are upcoming PGMS PTA Dine Out Fundraisers:

Wed. Jan. 14: CPK
Wed. Feb. 25: Pizza My Heart
Wed. Mar. 25: Pepper's

More information about the fundraisers will be posted in the video bulletin as the date gets closer. Thank you!



Buy your PGMS yearbook for only \$50 before they run out! Forms are available in the office.

A Holiday Luncheon for PGMS Teachers and Staff!

'Tis the season for celebrations, delicious dishes, beautiful décor, and good company! A big thank you goes to the PTSA for leading this wonderful treat for our teachers and staff during this holiday season! Thank you to all the parents who cooked, baked, set-up, and cleaned-up!

*The PGMS teachers and staff send out a great heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all!!*



Attention 8th Grade Parents!

It's time to honor your 8th grader with a promotion ad!

Information and payment for parents' ads are now being accepted. All ads will be 3.75 by 2.5 inches (business card size).

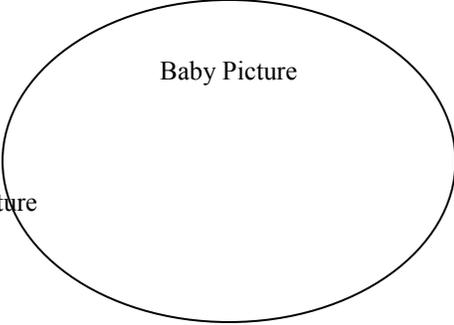
You must submit your ad information and payment of \$25.00 to the office by Friday, February 20, 2015.

Please make checks payable to PGMS and note "yearbook ad" in the memo. If you would like to include a candid shot of your child, please email a digital photo, using a **300 DPI or higher**, to Ms. Costales (jcostales@pgusd.org) before February 20, 2015.

Note: *There is a limited amount of space available for ads; they will be sold on a first-come/paid, first-serve basis.*

Form (complete for your ad)

Print student name: _____
Message: (no more than 35 words, including signature)

<p>Jane Doe</p> <p>Congratulations, our shooting star! We know you will achieve all your goals and dreams. Shine brightly and the world will shine with you!</p> <p>All our love, Mom and Dad</p>	<p>Baby Picture</p>  <p>Random Picture</p>
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Parents: Please print and fill this form out. Please have your student return it to the office as soon as possible. **Thank you.**

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Photo/Video Release Form

AUTHORIZATION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS AND/OR AUDIO-VISUAL

I, _____, hereby authorize the Pacific Grove Unified School District to use, reproduce, and/or distribute and publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to either myself or my student _____, including image, likeness and/or voice without compensation.

I understand that this material may be used by PGUSD for PGUSD related purposes and in various mediums, including electronic and print, such as PGUSD publications, public affairs releases, or for other PGUSD promotional related endeavors. The photo/video may also appear on the Pacific Grove Unified School District website (www.pgusd.org), PGUSD's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or future PGUSD social media pages. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my specific rescission of this authorization.

PGUSD may also publish materials, use my or my student's name, photograph, and/or make reference to me or my student in any manner that PGUSD deems appropriate in order to promote/publicize its programs and services.

The Pacific Grove Unified School District seeks your consent and release to allow PGUSD to take photos or to record/video you or your student, and to allow PGUSD to use such photographs or recordings as described above. Execution by you of this consent and release does not obligate PGUSD to record and/or use your presentation as described. By executing this consent and release form you are affirming that you are the legal parent or guardian of the above named student.

Signature _____

Date _____

435 Hillcrest Avenue Pacific Grove, CA 93950 www.pgusd.org
Phone: 831-646-6510 Fax: 831-646-6500



December

Each month our faculty selects students of the month for all classes. These students have excelled in one or more of the following areas: ongoing academic achievement, exemplary accomplishment on a particular project or unit, excellence in attitude, effort or improvement.

The selected students are professionally photographed and their photos are displayed on the bulletin board next to the office. A letter is sent home, along with the photographs, bumper sticker, and certificate from the teacher.

Congratulations to all of the selected students!

Office Assistant

Aubrianna Barron

Social Skills

Dom Aliotti and
Garrett Bourez

Library

Gabe Guertin

History

Jeremiah Yanez, Jesse
Pegis, Katya Benard and
Luke Herzog

ELD

Melisa Dalmis

Reading

Jaidy Belloso-Curiel and
Miguel Ocampo

Leadership

Chianti Carter and
Mario Metias

Learning Center

Adamaris Rojas-Lopez,
Andres McLaren, and
Carolyn Clark

Video Bulletin

Benjamin Sterwerf

CORE

Alex Ottmar, Andres
McLaren, Caroline Coen,
Jenica Okuhara, Jessica
Heath, Kayleigh McCul-
lough, Rachel Galarza, and
Tyra Domalaog

Science

Alex Ottmar, Eva Mills,
Julian Olson, Kaeden
Fletcher-Vogel, and
Matthew Mendez

Math

Alex Murray, Brenden
Miller, Garrett Bourez,
Raghad Osman, and
Nisha Singh

English

Chloe Stickler, Dylan
MacLaren, Elizabeth Lee,
Kaysa Paulsen, Matthew Lo,
Michelle Lee, and
Noor Benny

“We are Rising Like the Tide”

Pacific Grove Middle School

835 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Phone: 831-646-6568

Fax: 831-646-6652

Website: www.pgmiddle.org



**PGMS SCHOOL CALENDAR
2014-2015**

If you have any questions about an event, please contact the school office, 646-6568.

January	1-2	Thursday-Friday	Winter Break (<i>no school</i>)
	5	Monday	Teacher Prep Day (<i>no classes for students</i>)
	14	Wednesday	8 th Grade Parent Night, PG High School Library, 6:30 p.m.
	19	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (<i>no school</i>)
	21	Wednesday	100 th Day Celebration
	22-24	Thursday - Saturday	CCS Honors Instrumental, PGMS Aud.
	26	Monday	Student of the Month Pictures, 12:30
	27	Tuesday	Honor Society Social, <i>Gym, 6:30 p.m.</i>
	28	Wednesday	Conduct Club Activity
29-31	Thursday - Saturday	CCS Honors Choir, Salinas High School	
February	3	Tuesday	8 th Grade Panorama Picture
	10	Tuesday	Spelling Bee
	16-20	Monday - Friday	Presidents' Holidays & Break (<i>no school</i>)
	22	Sunday	Great Taste of PG, Spanish Bay
March	6	Friday	Spring Dance, 7 th & 8 th Grade, <i>Youth Center, 7:00-8:30 p.m.</i>
	13	Friday	End of Third Quarter
	16	Monday	Staff Development Day, All PGUSD Schools Closed
	19	Thursday	Parent Conference Day
	23	Monday	Student of the Month Pictures, 12:30/ Sports Pictures, 3:15
	24	Tuesday	Honor Society Social, <i>Gym, 6:30 p.m.</i>
	25	Wednesday	Conduct Club Activity
	26	Thursday	Parent Conference Day
	*27	Friday	Minimum Day, Students released at 12:11
30-31	Monday - Tuesday	Spring Break, no school	
April	1-3	Wednesday-Friday	Spring Break (<i>no school</i>)
	8	Wednesday	5 th Grade Parent Orientation, <i>Auditorium, 6:15 p.m.</i> & Open House, <i>7:00-8:30 p.m.</i>
	18	Saturday	CMEA-CCS Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival, PGMS Aud.
	20	Monday	8 th Grade community service hours due
	22	Wednesday	Student of the Month Pictures, 12:30
	25	Saturday	Music in the Parks Festival
	28	Tuesday	PGMS Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Library, <i>7:30am - 8:30 a.m.</i>

Spirit Days:

Jan. 16: NFL Jersey Day
30: Crazy Hair Day

Feb. 13: Red, White, Pink Day
27: PJ's day

*** Minimum Days (November 26, December 19, March 27, May 29)
Dismissal at 12:11**